

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 were rejected as anticipated by WATANABE et al. 6,259,503. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 includes a pixel electrode and a common electrode that are arranged and adapted to generate an electric field parallel to the substrates in the liquid crystal layer, the pixel and common electrodes having a common longitudinal axis and the liquid crystal layer having a non-zero initial alignment angle relative to the common longitudinal axis.

With reference to Figure 4 of the present application, the pixel and common electrodes that are "arranged and adapted to generate an electric field parallel to said substrates in said liquid crystal layer" are the comb-like structures that are parallel to the data line 21. The connecting lines corresponding to the lines identified in the Official Action (the lines parallel to the scanning signal line 12) can not and do not generate an electric field parallel to the substrates in the liquid crystal layer.

The same is true for the electrodes in WATANABE et al. The comb-like pixel and common electrodes 103/104 that are parallel to the data or signal lines 102 generate the electric field parallel to the substrates in the liquid crystal layer. The connecting lines identified in the Official Action (parallel to the line 108) can not and do not (and thus are not "arranged

and adapted to") generate an electric field parallel to the substrates in the liquid crystal layer.

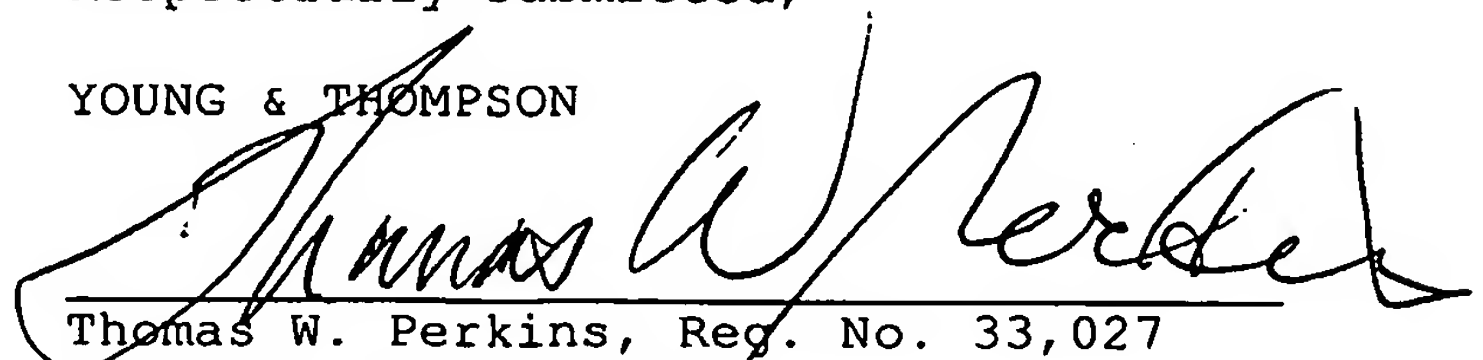
Thus, in WATANABE et al. the pixel electrode and a common electrode that are arranged and adapted to generate an electric field parallel to the substrates in the liquid crystal layer are the comb-like structures that have a common longitudinal axis that is parallel to the initial alignment angle of the liquid crystal layer (indicated by the rubbing direction arrow). Since the axis and the initial alignment angle are parallel, the initial alignment angle has a zero angle relative to the axis. The claim specifies that this angle is "non-zero," and thus the claim avoids the rejection under §102.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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